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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/549,855

09/23/2005

Toshihiro Yamanaka

4074-20

4776

23117 7590 02/03/2010
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EXAMINER

PAYER, PAUL F

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2625

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

02/03/2010

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/549,855	Applicant(s) YAMANAKA, TOSHIHIRO	
	Examiner PAUL F. PAYER	Art Unit 2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 August 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 6-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 6-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11/23/2009</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 11/23/2009 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

2. Applicant's amendment filed on 11/23/2009 has been entered. Applicant amends claims 6, 7 and 18.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to the **duplicate claim objection for claim 18** have been considered and are persuasive. The objection is withdrawn.

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to **claims 6-18** have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 6-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawabuchi et al. (U.S. 5,884,122) and Shimizu (U.S. 2004/0012812).

Regarding claim 6 (Currently Amended), **claim 7** (Currently Amended) and **claim 18** (Currently Amended), Kawabuchi et al. discloses an information processing apparatus (column 1/lines 5-6), comprising:

a power switch for activating the information processing apparatus (column 2/lines 26-29, the printer has a power switch used for manual shut down and power up), comprising:

a storage unit that stores data to be processed (Fig. 3 and column 5/lines 3-11; image memory 401 stores print data, corresponding to “data to be processed”);

a management record unit that records processing contents data (Fig. 3 and column 5/lines 26-29, the RAM 402 corresponds to the “management record unit”; it stores print job data or “processing contents data”);

a control unit that controls to carry out information processing, based on the processing contents data recorded in the management record unit, about the data to be processed stored in the storage unit (Fig. 3, the controller 300 controls the printing function; it prints the print data stored in image memory 401 based on the print job data stored in the RAM 402);

a resuming unit that resumes, when the information processing is temporarily stopped and resumed, the information processing based on the processing contents

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data which is not changed between pre- and post- resuming (column 2/lines 30-34, if the power supply was turned off with the auto-power-off function and turned on automatically, the device restores the operation state to that before the power off (in restores in particular the print data and print job data) and resumes regular operation);

an invalidating unit that invalidates the processing contents data recorded in the management record unit (column 2/lines 34-38; if the power supply is turned on manually, the print job data is erased; this corresponds to invalidating the processing contents data recorded in the management record unit; controller 300 erases the print job data and corresponds to the claimed invalidating unit);

a limiting unit that limits, when the power switch is turned off and **the invalidating unit is operable**, the operation of the resuming unit, wherein the information processing is resumed after deleting a part or all of the processing contents data recorded in the management record unit (column 2/lines 34-38; if the power supply is turned on manually, the print job data is erased; this corresponds to invalidating the processing contents data recorded in the management record unit), wherein

the limitation performed by the limiting unit is prevented when the power switch is turned off and **the invalidating unit is not operable** (column 2/lines 31-34; if the power supply was turned off with the auto power-off function, the print job data is not erased; this corresponds to inhibiting the limitation, i.e., restoring the device state) and

if the storage unit successively stores the data to be processed, the control unit controls to carry out successive information processing about data to be processed having already stored in the storage unit (Fig. 3, corresponding to the common mode of

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operation of a copier, data is scanned by image reader 100, stored in image memory 401 and then printed by printer 200 under the control of controller 300; data is “successively” stored in image memory 401 and print data stored in image memory 401 is “successively” printed).

Kawabuchi et al. does not explicitly disclose “an operation admission unit” with the limitations claimed.

However, deleting print job information for a print job, particularly a secure print job, after the job has been printed (teaching which would read on the "operation admission unit" and related limitations claimed) is a common practice in the art. For example, Shimizu teaches specifying a data erasure mode for each print job and executing a data erasure process after a print job was printed based on the data erasure mode assigned to the print job (Fig. 2 and [0009], after a print job is printed at step S203, an data erasure process is executed on the print job at step S206). One of the data erasure modes disclosed involves erasing only the print job data for the print job ([0011]/lines 1-5).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to have deleted print job information for a print job, particularly a secure print job, after the print job was printed in order to free memory for use by other print jobs and, in the case of a secure print job, minimize the likelihood that the print job be read by unauthorized users.

Regarding claim 8 (dependent on claim 6, Previously Presented) and **claim 9** (dependent on claim 7, Previously Presented), Kawabuchi et al. and Shimizu disclose

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the information processing apparatus backing up the print job data from RAM to non-volatile memory during the power down and restoring the print job data into RAM on power up (Kawabuchi et al., column 2/lines 30-34, if the power supply was turned off with the auto-power-off function and turned on automatically, the device restores the operation state to that before the power off (in restores in particular the print data and print job data) and resumes regular operation). While not explicitly disclosed, maintaining a location of where in backup memory the print job data is stored is required for the print job data to be able to be restored.

Regarding claim 10 (dependent on claim 6, Previously Presented), **claim 11** (dependent on claim 7, Previously Presented), **claim 12** (dependent on claim 8, Previously Presented) and **claim 13** (dependent on claim 9, Previously Presented), Kawabuchi et al. and Shimizu disclose:

the process contents data comprises data to be processed and associated information associated with the data (Kawabuchi et al., column 5/lines 3-10; print/image data is stored in image memory 401 and print job data (which include, among other data elements, number of copies, paper size, etc.) associated with the image/print data is stored in RAM 402, and

the limiting unit is structured so as to resume the information processing after all of the processing contents data is deleted from the management record unit (Kawabuchi et al., column 2/lines 34-38; if the power supply is turned on manually, the print job data is erased; this corresponds to invalidating the processing contents data recorded in the management record unit).

Regarding claim 14 (dependent on claim 10, Previously Presented), **claim 15** (dependent on claim 11, Previously Presented), **claim 16** (dependent on claim 12, Previously Presented) and **claim 17** (dependent on claim 13, Previously Presented), Kawabuchi et al. and Shimizu fail to explicitly disclose the management record unit storing the data to be processed in a condition of being encrypted.

The Examiner takes official notice that it is well known in the art to encrypt print data, specifically confidential data, in order to prevent leakage of such data. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to store print data in Kawabuchi et al. and Shimizu's system in an encrypted form in order to prevent leakage of such data.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PAUL F. PAYER whose telephone number is (571) 270-7302. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thu 6:15am-3:45pm, 2nd Fri of biweek 6:15am-2:45pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Benny Q. Tieu can be reached on (571) 272-7490. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Paul F. Payer/
Examiner, Art Unit 2625

/Twyler L. Haskins/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625